

VMS Update

Dear Members

Please note VMS update from Fisheries Queensland below.

Regards, Eric



Vessel tracking updates and tips

Transfer of Option Audio contracts

Fishers who have contracts and monthly data plans with Option Audio for YB3i (Rockfleet) vessel tracking units will need to 'opt in' to transfer to Pivotel by the end of July.

The manufacturer of the YB3i unit, Rock Seven, now has a contract with Pivotel to manage existing contracts previously held by Option Audio. Pivotel is now also an approved provider for future YB3i units and new data contracts.

Pivotel is an approved provider of vessel tracking units in Queensland (of both the SPOT Trace device and YB3i unit) and provides satellite services throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Fisheries Queensland has worked closely with Rock Seven, Option Audio and Pivotel to minimise any impacts on commercial fishers. If you have a contract with Option Audio, Pivotel will contact you directly about the transfer, and Fisheries Queensland will continue to work with Option Audio to address any outstanding issues.

To transfer your current Option Audio contract to Pivotel, **you need to 'opt in' to agree to the transfer by 31 July 2019:**

- There will be **no transfer costs**.
- Your **monthly data plan will stay the same**.
- You will need to **update your direct debit details** to ensure the security of your information.
- Your **unit warranty will be honoured** by Pivotel.
- There will be **no immediate changes to your access to the Rock Seven portal**. Your login to access your data will stay the same. Pivotel will migrate your data to the Pivotel portal (Tracertrak) after the 'opt in' process is complete.
- Your **unit registration information** in the FishNet Secure system will stay the same.

To 'opt in' and update your direct debit details, call Pivotel or visit their website. If you need help to complete the 'opt in' process, contact Fisheries Queensland or Pivotel for assistance.

If you do not 'opt in' by the end of July, there may be additional costs.

If you have any questions about the transfer process, contact Pivotel, Option Audio or Fisheries Queensland:

Pivotel

Call: 1300 882 448

Email: mail@pivotel.com.au

Visit: www.pivotel.com.au

Option Audio

Call: (07) 3805 5112

Email: fisheries@optionaudio.com

Fisheries Queensland

Call: 13 25 23

Email: vesseltracking@daf.qld.gov.au

Compliance counts

A reminder that you are required to have a working vessel tracking unit on board before you commence a trip.

Changes to the *Fisheries Act 1994* earlier this year introduced a new offence for failing to carry a vessel tracking unit or deliberately turning a vessel tracking unit off while at sea. The penalty is up to 1000 penalty units, which could cost you up to \$133 450.

An on-the-spot fine for not complying with the vessel tracking requirement has also been introduced—this is 20 penalty units, which could cost you up to \$2669.

These new penalties reflect the importance of vessel tracking and the government's commitment to the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

Over the last six months, the focus has been on education, awareness and issuing warnings. However, ongoing non-compliance will now result in a caution, followed by an on-the-spot fine. There will be an exception for fishers waiting for a unit on back order.

Apply for your rebate today

The vessel tracking rebate scheme remains open until the end of 2020.

The rebate was introduced so the majority of fishers would not be out of pocket for the initial purchase and installation of their vessel tracking unit.

To date, only half of the units purchased have been rebated under the scheme.

Permanent licence holders can apply for rebates for up to seven units, depending on the licence. The available rebates are:

- Category A—approved vessel tracking unit—up to a maximum of \$300
- Category B—approved vessel tracking unit—up to a maximum of \$750
- professional installation of an approved vessel tracking unit—up to a maximum of \$220.

The application process only takes around 15–20 minutes, so apply for your rebate today.

Call the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 (free call) or [apply online](#).

If you need any help with the application process, please call us on 13 25 23 or email vesseltracking@daf.qld.gov.au.

Request a call back for support

For more information, please call the Customer Service Centre 13 25 23 or email vesseltracking@daf.qld.gov.au and we can assist you with any questions.

